

J. W. Lundgren

Sir

Although unknown by you and being very little versed in writing of the English language, I take the liberty of addressing a letter to you, and I hope you please to excuse, that I, an unknown name among the botanists, dare trouble you with a letter, you the most celebrated botanist in the U. States. But my foregoing unhappiness in addressing a letter to Mr. W. C. Sullivan in Columbus, the renowned knower of the mosses, and not getting an answer from him and the knowledge, that you are just returned from your travel in Europe, effect that I must be audacious of addressing to you. — Being a Swede by birth, a scholar of C. Wahlenberg and C. Fries in Upsala, where I am graduated, I arrived in N. York 10 weeks ago and have brought along with me a very good herbarium of mosses and several good works in botany, especially in Bryology, thinking to find in America a brother, who has been there several years, and supposing, in every case, to get my subsistence from my knowledge in the botany,

but I have been unhappy in all and I did
very soon see that the botany here is of
no matter and that it must be necessary to
use my ~~my~~ knowledges in languages, in order to
get my subsistence. I speak German and
French, and tolerable well English. At present
I am engaged only a few hours a week in a
school in Brooklyn, where I give instruction in
the French, Latin and Greek languages, but
from that situation I cannot gain my liveli-
hood. On account of these very unpleasant
reasons, I beg leave to offer you to buy all
or any part of the collections; the price
will be no impediment, if you like the
same, because I know very well that I
cannot find here in America many persons,
who understand to appraise these things. - I
beg you, Sir, and I beg again, be pleased
to do any thing for me, either in buying
my collections or any thing else effecting
to get a place for me. - Concerning to my
conduct and character, I can give satisfact-
ory references, and concerning to my ability
as scientific botanist, I can only give
reference to Prof. J. Torrey, to whom I
have spoken and who has been very
kind toward me; but, unhappily for me, he
did not care to see my collections, because
his present business is the chemistry.
Unhappy in seeing it necessary to give
up my desire to study the botany, I
am still more unhappy, not finding a person,

who wishes to buy my collections. - - I cannot now
specify all the mosses, but I am sure, that the
herbarium is worth your attention, as containing
many specimens of rare Swedish and other mosses,
several of them in plenty, f. ex. 1 à 200 specimens
of the rare *Pyrum cinclidioides* etc., together
500 species of Mosses and a very good Collection
of Hepaticae. You can find among them many
original specimens from Hartman, Thedenius, My-
rin, C. Müller, Schimper, Hornschuch etc. -
Following are the books: *Pouch & Schimper, Bryolo-
gia Europæa, c. tabb., Pt. 1-24, 42-45; Gottsche &
Lindenberg, Species Hepaticarum, c. tabb., Pt. 1-11*
(qu. prod.); *Eckart, Synopsis Fungorum in Germania*
etc., c. tabb.; Schimper, Recherches anatom. & morphol.
sur les mousses, c. tabb.; Gottsche etc., Synopsis
Hepaticarum; Müller, Synopsis muscorum fœd.
fasc. 1-VIII (qu. prod.); Hilbener, Muscol. Germanica;
- - , Hepaticologia Germ.; - , Deutschlands Leber-
und Laubmoose in getrockn. Ex., h. 1-6 (qu. pr.);
Rabenhorst, Deutschlands Leber-, Laubmoose und
Farn; Hooker & Taylor, Muscol. Britann., ed. II,
c. tabb.; Fiedler, Synopsis der Laubmoose Mecklen-
burgs; Hzigsohn, Verzeichniß der in der Mark
Brandenburg wuchs. Laubmoose; Lehmann, Antro-
cephalus, Eine neue Moos-Gattung, c. tab. (Scorim,
et A. N. S. G. L.); Mes ab Ebenbeck, Entw. der Laub-
moose aus Keimkörnern, c. tabb. (Scorim et c. o.); Myrin,
Musci, in Corollaris Floræ Upsalicæ; - , Dichelyma,
nov. gen. Muscorum, (Scor. et Act. Ac. Scient. Holm.), c. tabb.
Thedenius, Observationes de encervis Scandinavici spe-
ciibus generis Andredæ, c. tabb.; Ahnfeltt, Disposi-
tio Musc. in Scania Thypnoid.; Ångström, Symbolæ
ad Bryologiam Scandinaviam (Scor. et Act. Soc.

c. scient. Ups.); — Musci in Fries' Summa Vegetab.
 Scand.; Schimper, Nya Mossor först funna under
 en resa i Skandinavien, år 1844 (New Mosses
 first found during a travel in Scandinavia, du-
 ring the year 1844) c. tabb. (Geogr. Act. Ac. Scient.
 Upsolm.); Bryologic Treatises in the German perio-
 dical paper: Botanische Zeitung, 1843-1848, c. tabb;
 + Körber, Grundriss der Kryptogamen-Kunde; Horschub,
 + Metamorph. der niederen Vegetabilien (G. Act. N. S. C. L.);
 Koch, Synops. Fl. Germ. & Helv., ed. II; Grenier & Godron, +
 Flore de France, I, II: 1; Fries, Summa Vegetabilium
 Scandinavie, T. I, II (qu. prod.); Hartman, Skandina-
 viens Flora, ed. V.
 + Castadius, Loca parallela plantarum; (Pritzell, —
 Thesaurus litteraturæ Botanicae fasc. 1-14); Bischoff,
 Handbuch d. botan. Terminologie, c. tabb. LXXVII, in
 H^o; Botanische Zeitung 1850, c. tabb.; Engelmann,
 Naturalhist. Bibliogr.; (H. v. Mohl, Mikrographie, +
 c. tabb.; Kellner D. Orthoskop. Ocular — —
 Besides, some msc. additions to Pritzell; dispu-
 tationes variae Ups.; — — —

I must again beg you not to take amiss my
 long letter, written in bad English, and I cannot
 say, how much I will be obliged to you, if
 I can hope to expect some lines as answer.

Most respectfully,

your humble servant

J. G. Lundgren

N. York the 26th November 1851.

Care of Mr. A. F. Lindberg, no 58 West Street, N. Y.